

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/605,236

Examiner

Kim Huynh

Applicant(s)

HUNG ET AL.

Art Unit

2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 8/2/05 and interview on 8/11/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-10,13-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT/COMMENTS

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an email interview with Ms. Belinda Lee on September 6, 2001.

The application has been amended to properly incorporate the limitation of objected claims 2 and 12 into claims 1 and 10 to put the application in condition for allowance. The phrase "the USB interface module further" is added in proposed claim 1 and 10 to correct grammatical errors and for clarity.

Change the title to "Direct Access USB Device" for a better illustration of the claimed invention.

Claims 1 and 10 are amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A data-exchangeable universal serial bus (USB) device that accesses another USB device directly to store or retrieve data, comprises:

an USB interface module, wherein the USB interface module comprises an USB host core circuit, for communicating with the another USB device operating at a device mode, a USB device core circuit for communicating with the another USB device operating at a host mode; the USB interface module further comprising a first switch electrically connected to a D+ signal line of an USB interface at one terminal and to a high voltage level at another terminal, a second switch electrically connected to the

Art Unit: 2182

D+ signal line of the USB interface at one terminal and to a ground reference at another terminal, and a third switch electrically connected to a D- signal line of the USB interface at one terminal and to the ground reference at another terminal; wherein the first switch is turned off and the second and third switches are turned on when the another USB device operates at a device mode, and the first switch is turned on and the second and third switches are turned off when the another USB device operates at a host mode; and

a function module, electrically connected to the USB interface module, which further comprises a mass storage device for storing data, and automatically accessing a storage of the another USB device operating at the device mode.

10. (currently amended) A data-exchangeable USB device that is directly connected to another USB device so that data is exchanged between each other, which comprises:

a function module, controlled by a user, for operating at a device mode or a host mode, and outputting a mode signal; and

an USB interface module, electrically connected to the function module and the another USB device, according to the mode signal, operating at the device mode or at the host mode, and in accordance with an USB standard, allowing instructions and data flowing back and forth between the data-exchangeable USB device and the another USB device, wherein when the USB interface module operates at the host mode, the function module issues an instruction to the another USB device and accesses a storage in the another USB device accordingly, and when the USB interface module operates at the device mode, the function module receives an instruction from the another USB device and executes the instruction accordingly; the USB interface module further comprising a first switch, a second switch, and a third switch, in which the first switch is electrically connected to a D+ signal line of an USB interface and a high voltage level, the second switch is electrically connected to the D+ signal line of the USB interface and a ground reference, and the third switch electrically connected to a D- signal line of the USB interface and the ground reference; further, according to the mode signal, the USB interface module

Art Unit: 2182

operates accordingly that is when the function module operates at the host mode, the first switch is turned off and the second and third switches are turned on, and when the function module operates at the device mode, the first switch is turned on and the second and third switches are turned off.

Allowable Subject Matter

The statement of reasons for allowance is as indicated in the previous office action. The references of record do not teach or suggest the aforementioned limitation, nor would it be obvious to modify those references to include such limitation.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4147.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 2182

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kim Huynh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim Huynh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2182

KH
8/14/05